

Oak Middle School Summer Reading 2013
Letter to Parents

June 2013

Dear Families,

Summer provides a wonderful opportunity for students and families to enjoy great books together! The goal of the middle school summer reading program is *to foster a love of reading*. Reading over the summer can also help students to maintain or even improve their reading skills. In order to meet the needs of each students' reading skills and interests, the Oak summer reading list contains a variety of genres at various reading levels. Students should be encouraged to read books that match their level of comprehension.

The summer reading program and list has been adjusted for incoming 7th and 8th grade students. This year, there are two sections on the summer reading list. One section is called *Sponsored Novels*. As a part of a school-wide literacy initiative, the teachers of Oak Middle School have each selected one novel that they will sponsor in the fall. These novels are included in the *Sponsored Novels* section. All students must read at least one novel from the *Sponsored Novels* section. All Students must also complete either the fiction graphic organizer or the non-fiction graphic organizer. Both of these documents are available on the school website along with the summer reading list. When students return to school in September, they will indicate which novel they read. We will then hold the "AllSchool-Summer-Reading Workshops", where students will gather together with the teacher who sponsored their novel and engage in activities related to that novel. It is very important that all students read at least one novel from this list so that they can take part in a summer reading workshop.

Students will then read two other novels from any part of the list - either the *Sponsored Novel* section or the *Supplemental List*. Students will debrief these novels with their ELA teachers in the fall.

Parents and students may access the list from the Shrewsbury Public Schools web site, <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/>. Scroll over the "Teaching and Learning" heading and then follow the drop down box choices to "Curriculum" and then "Summer Reading 2013". All reading lists may be downloaded from this location. Additionally, a paper copy of the list will be available in the main office of Oak Middle School, at the school department office in town hall, and at the Shrewsbury Public Library.

Although not required, we recommend that students use strategies to help them to engage in the text. Some strategies may include keeping a reading journal or using sticky notes to annotate the book. Students may also benefit from reading the same title as a friend or family member and engaging in ongoing discussions about the book. On the website, there is a "How to Annotate Guide" for specific information about the annotating process.

Summer reading books should be selected according to interest and independent reading ability. If your child is struggling with a book, please have them try another text that more comfortably fits their independent reading level. If your child is having difficulty finding an appropriate selection, please contact Lisa Daly (ldaly@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us) and further accommodations may be discussed.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer!